



EMC News

October 3, 2000

Volume 7, No. 9

Education Committee

The Education Committee is now updating the EMC web site. If anyone has suggestions as to content or format, please let Steve know, his email is scnfish@clarityconnect.com. We are also updating and revising the Tompkins County Environmental Directory, which is a large part of the content of our web site.

Submitted by Steve Nicholson

UNA Municipal Presentations

October 16	Town of Trumansburg
October 24	Town of Ithaca

Unique Natural Areas Committee

The Town of Lansing Planning Board received a presentation on the UNA Inventory 2000 on Monday, September 25. They now have a copy of the inventory and the accompanying maps. Presentations are happening this month for the Towns of Ithaca and Trumansburg.

Submitted by Lynn Leopold and Bruce Johnson

County's Public Safety Communication System (Towers) Committee

The County working group has interviewed three consultants and meets on October 2 to make a recommendation as to which consultant to hire. The consultant will explore communication system alternatives and assist the County in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. An EMC member (Susan Brock) participated in the three candidate interviews and will participate in the process to select a recommended consultant.

Submitted by Susan Brock

Windmills of Madison County

Several EMC members drove to Madison, New York for an open house tour of the wind farm. This is currently the largest wind project east of the Mississippi. The seven Vestas windmills, each atop 210' towers, with three blades 110' long, will provide enough "green power" for about 10,000 homes. Easily visible from Route 20, and only 1.5 hours northeast of Ithaca, a trip there would offer leaf-peeping opportunities in beautiful upstate New York and a view of this state-of-the-art facility. There will be a report about this site, and wind power in general, at the October EMC meeting.

Submitted by Steve Nicholson

Water Resources Committee

!!!!Urgent Request!!!!

The Water Resources Committee urgently needs more members to help address the issues we currently have before us:

1) Fluoridation

The Ithaca community will be asked to vote in November on a referendum to add fluorine to the municipal water supply. Good environmental information on the effects of fluorine in the ecosystem would be useful for the community as ponders this weighty decision. We are currently gathering information on this topic. However, this project requires some work over the next few weeks, starting with the October 10 meeting of the Board of Health, ceasing after the election. It's a short-term, but very important issue facing the area.

2) Jet Ski Regulation

We are also collecting information on the environmental effects of jet ski usage. We will be circulating this information to municipalities as they consider regulating the usage of personal watercraft. As we learn more about this topic, we can decide on the exact role of the EMC on this particular issue.

Many other potential projects also exist under the broad heading of "Water Issues," especially in a community dominated by a large aquatic ecosystem! With additional members to the Water Resources Committee, we will be able to address topics such as the lead contamination of Ithaca Falls and Cayuga Lake, and investigate innovative solutions to septic systems, as per the Board of Health request.



Recent assignments have included gathering information to assist the Jacksonville community with their ground water contamination and remediation issues. One of our committee members proposed a small local water system, but the town is pursuing a larger project. Water resources committee members also met with Cayuga County EMC members to discuss the contamination and diversion of a tributary of Salmon Creek by a large agricultural enterprise. We are watching for the resolution of this issue by the DEC/EPA.

In order to effectively address these topics, we need more Water Committee members to share in this worthwhile work. Please join us!!!!

Submitted by Jean Foley

Announcements

Opening of the D.E.P.O.T. (County's Household Hazardous Waste Facility)

The County's new Household Hazardous Waste Management Facility, or the D.E.P.O.T. (Don't Empty Pollutants in Our Trash) is scheduled to open on October 19, 2000. To schedule a drop-off, contact the Solid Waste Division's new household hazardous waste hotline at 273-4496 (273-HHWM) for a registration form. Return the form with the \$5.00 registration fee, and arrange a drop-off appointment!

"The Emperor of Fluoridation has No Clothes"

Paul Connett, a Professor of Chemistry from St. Lawrence University has been invited to speak on October 17 at 7:00 PM, at the Holiday Inn in downtown Ithaca. Dr. Connett is well recognized for his work examining the effects of chemicals introduced into the environment. This speaker is being brought to Ithaca by citizens concerned about fluoridation.

BOH Hears from Public on City Fluoridation Issue

The County Board of Health (BOH) has been asked to take a position on the proposal to fluoridate drinking water in the City of Ithaca. The meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2000, from 11:00 am to 3:00 p.m., in the Biggs B Building (Harris B. Dates Dr.) Rice Conference Room. The BOH will allow 3 minutes for comments from each speaker.

Nominations being sought!



The Nominating Committee is seeking nominees for the Chair and Vice-Chair positions to serve during 2001. If you are interested, or would like to nominate an individual, please contact Bruce Johnson (brj1@cornell.edu).

Solar Homes Tour

The home of one of our members, Stephen Nicholson is again part of the National Tour of Solar Homes. This annual event, organized by the American Solar Energy Society and the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association, takes place on Saturday, October 14. You are all invited to take the tour and learn how Steve and his family live off the grid, generating their own electricity with photovoltaics and wind. They use one-tenth the electricity of an average home in the area. This is accomplished with an energy efficient house design, and very efficient appliances and lighting. For more information and directions, please visit <http://www.nesea.org/>. You can also check out Steve's web site: <http://people2.clarityconnect.com/webpages6/scnfish/>.

Noxious Weeds Website

Researchers with the United States Department of Agriculture, in conjunction with the University of Montana, have developed a list of noxious weeds and their occurrence in the lower 48 United States and six Canadian provinces. The web site is: http://invader.dbs.umt.edu/Noxious_Weeds.



No Reports Submitted

Chair's Report

Coordinator's Report

Environmental Review Committee Report

Executive Committee Report

NESTS Committee Report